AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 (Canceled).

22. (Currently amended) A phone supporting voice communication via a wireless packet network, the phone comprising:

~~at least one converter for converting a first voice stream into outgoing digital voice data;~~

at least one processor for processing outgoing digital voice data converted from a first voice stream to produce packets for transmission via the wireless packet network;

the at least one processor operably coupled to a radio transmitter for transmitting the packets ~~for transmission~~ via the wireless packet network;

the at least one processor operably coupled to a radio receiver for receiving packets via the wireless packet network;

the at least one processor for selectively processing the packets received via the wireless packet network to produce incoming digital voice data[[;]]

~~the at least one converter~~ for ~~converting the incoming digital voice data~~ conversion to ~~produce~~ a second voice stream;

wherein the phone supports concurrent, bidirectional voice communication; and

wherein the at least one processor monitors the first voice stream for a lack of speech for a minimum period of time.

23. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 22 further comprising:

at least one interface for accepting input from a user; and

the at least one interface for providing feedback to a user.

24. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 23 wherein the at least one interface comprises a keypad.

25. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 23 wherein the at least one interface comprises a display.

26. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 22 further comprising:

a handset having a microphone for transducing sound into the first voice stream, and a transducer for converting the second voice stream into sound.

27. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 22 wherein the at least one processor buffers incoming digital voice data for an adjustable amount of time to avoid the occurrence of a gap in the second voice stream.

28. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 27 wherein the adjustable amount of time is based upon a propagation delay.

29. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 27 wherein the adjustable amount of time is based upon a test packet.

30. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 22 wherein the phone transmits and receives packets comprising digital data not related to the establishment or receipt of a voice call.

31. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 22 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using an Internet protocol (IP).

32. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 31 wherein the Internet protocol is the transmission control protocol (TCP)/Internet protocol (IP).

33. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 22 wherein the wireless packet network communicates at a frequency of approximately 2.4 gigahertz.

34. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 22 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using a direct sequence spread spectrum technique.

35. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 22 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using a frequency hopping spread spectrum technique.

36. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 22 further comprising:

an interface for receiving information representing an image for transmission via the wireless packet network.

37. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 22 further comprising:

a circuit card interface for accepting a removable circuit card.

38. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 37 wherein the removable circuit card comprises a wired network interface card.

39. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 37 wherein the removable circuit card interface is compatible with the Personal Computer Memory Card Interface Association (PCMCIA) standard.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 22 wherein the minimum period of time is approximately 200 milliseconds.

42. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 22 wherein transmission of packets containing digital voice data is interrupted when a lack of speech for the minimum period of time is detected.

43. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 42 wherein an indication of a change in speech activity is transmitted following the detection of a lack of speech for the minimum period of time.

44. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 43 wherein the indication is a group identifier.

45. (Currently amended) A phone circuit supporting voice communication via a wireless packet network, the circuit comprising:

~~at least one converter for converting a first voice stream into a first digital representation of sound;~~

at least one processor for processing [[the]] a first digital representation of sound converted from a first voice stream to produce packets for transmission via the wireless packet network;

at least one interface for communicatively coupling the packets ~~for transmission~~ to a transmitter compatible with the wireless packet network;

the at least one interface for communicatively coupling packets from a receiver compatible with the wireless packet network;

the at least one processor for processing the received packets to produce a second digital representation of sound for conversion into second voice stream; [[and]]

~~the at least one converter for converting the second digital representation of sound into a second voice stream;~~

wherein the phone circuit supports concurrent, bidirectional voice communication; and

wherein the at least one processor monitors the first digital representation of sound for a lack of speech for a minimum period of time.

46. (Previously presented) The circuit of claim 45 wherein the wireless packet network operates at a frequency of approximately 2.4 gigahertz.

47. (Previously presented) The circuit of claim 45 wherein the wireless packet network operates using an Internet protocol (IP).

48. (Previously presented) The circuit of claim 47 wherein the Internet protocol is the transmission control protocol (TCP)/Internet protocol (IP).

49. (Previously presented) The circuit of claim 45 further comprising:

at least one interface for receiving input from a user; and

the at least one interface for providing feedback to a user.

50. (Previously presented) The circuit of claim 45 further comprising:

an interface for receiving information representing an image for transmission via the wireless packet network.

51. (Previously presented) The circuit of claim 45 further comprising:

a circuit card interface for accepting a removable circuit card.

52. (Previously presented) The circuit of claim 51 wherein the removable circuit card comprises a wired network interface card.

53. (Previously presented) The circuit of claim 51 wherein the removable circuit card interface is compatible with the Personal Computer Memory Card Interface Association (PCMCIA) standard.

54. (Currently amended) A method of operating a phone supporting voice communication via a wireless packet network, the method comprising:

~~converting a first voice stream into outgoing digital voice data;~~

processing outgoing digital voice data converted from a first voice stream to produce packets for transmission via the wireless packet network;

~~transmitting~~ sending the packets for transmission via the wireless packet network;

receiving packets via the wireless packet network;

selectively processing the packets received via the wireless packet network to produce incoming digital voice data for conversion to a second voice stream;

~~converting the incoming digital voice data to produce a second voice stream; and~~

wherein the phone supports concurrent, bidirectional voice communication; and

wherein processing the outgoing digital voice data comprises monitoring the outgoing digital voice data for a lack of speech for a minimum period of time.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 further comprising:
accepting input from a user; and

providing feedback to a user.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 further comprising:
transducing sound into the first voice stream; and

converting the second voice stream into sound.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 wherein processing outgoing digital voice data comprises buffering incoming digital voice data for an adjustable amount of time to avoid the occurrence of a gap in the second voice stream.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the adjustable amount of time is based upon a propagation delay.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the transmitted and received packets comprise digital data not related to the establishment or receipt of a voice call.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using an Internet protocol (IP).

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the Internet protocol is the transmission control protocol (TCP)/Internet protocol (IP).

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the wireless packet network communicates at a frequency of approximately 2.4 gigahertz.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using a direct sequence spread spectrum technique.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using a frequency hopping spread spectrum technique.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 further comprising:

receiving information representing an image for transmission via the wireless packet network.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 further comprising:

accepting a removable circuit card.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the removable circuit card comprises a wired network interface card.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the removable circuit card is compatible with the Personal Computer Memory Card Interface Association (PCMCIA) standard.

69. (Cancelled)

70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the minimum period of time is approximately 200 milliseconds.

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 further comprising:

interrupting transmission of packets containing digital voice data when a lack of speech for the minimum period of time is detected; and

refraining from interrupting transmission of packets containing digital voice data when a lack of speech for the minimum period of time is not detected

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54 further comprising:

transmitting an indication of a change in speech activity following the detection of a lack of speech for the minimum period of time.

73. (Previously presented) The method of claim 72 wherein the indication is a group identifier.

74. (Previously presented) The phone of claim 22, wherein the phone does not receive dedicated bandwidth on the wireless packet network for the exchange of packets containing digital voice data.

75. (Previously presented) The circuit of claim 45, wherein the phone circuit does not receive dedicated bandwidth on the wireless packet network for the exchange of packets containing digital representations of sound.

76. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the phone does not receive dedicated bandwidth on the wireless packet network for the exchange of packets containing digital voice data.

77. (New) The phone of claim 22, wherein the phone adjusts the amount of digital voice data packetized and transmitted over the wireless network, in accordance with a predetermined voice threshold.

78. (New) The phone circuit of claim 45, wherein the at least one processor adjusts the amount of the first digital representation of sound packetized and transmitted over the wireless network, in accordance with a predetermined voice threshold.

79. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the phone adjusts the amount of digital voice data packetized and transmitted over the wireless network, in accordance with a predetermined voice threshold.